

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

## MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee, and the remaining time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Wyoming.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS  
REQUEST FOR IRAQ

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, obviously one of the issues before us and the issue we will be grappling with for the remainder of the week—perhaps longer—is the question of supporting our troops in Iraq and continuing to deal with the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. Certainly everyone agrees that these things have to be done. There are different views as to how they should be done. All of us have to review in our minds where we are, what the basic issues are that have us there, and certainly what is necessary to succeed in our efforts in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have before us a request for \$87 billion for the war on terror. That will be dealt with this week, the division there between what is required for the military aspect and then what is required to complete our job in terms of leaving Iraq and Afghanistan in the condition in which democracy and freedom and a lack of terrorism will be where we are in the future.

It is good to go back and review some ideas. I would like to talk about where we have been, where we need to go to complete the task we undertook, and talk a little about what we are seeking to do in terms of leaving Iraq in a position to govern itself and to support freedom and peace, and about the fact that we hear all the time that there was no plan after combat was over. That is not true. There is a plan. The plan is in process. We certainly will continue to carry out that plan. We need resources to do that.

All of us are concerned about spending. All of us are concerned about the deficit. We find ourselves in a deficit situation for reasons that are fairly apparent. It started, of course, with September 11, which was something we had no control over, which increased special spending we would not otherwise have had. Then we were faced with an economic turnaround which caused additional impacts on our deficit and the economy. Then, of course, we continued to have more terrorism and our troops in Iraq.

I guess probably no one in this body is more conservative than I am in terms of spending, in terms of government's role and what we ought to be doing, but I do recognize that when you have special things, whether it is your business or your family or your government, then spending is done in a different way. That is where we are.

The stakes are high in Iraq, certainly. It is the center front now for the war on terrorism. Critical work remains to be done in Afghanistan as well. Terrorists and regime remnants are making a desperate attempt to maintain themselves and continue in these countries. The U.S. and its allies are confronting them where they live and where they seek refuge, rather than leaving the terrorists in the safe havens where they would like to gather strength and resources and come back as they did before.

Our troops—no one would disagree, I am sure—have to have the necessary resources for the war on terror, and the spending requests will give our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan the equipment they need to increase their safety and security, which happens to be the most important thing for us. This includes funding to replace equipment used that was destroyed during combat operations, to protect our forces, better housing for our troops deployed overseas, and enhanced pay, reflected in the dangers that we face.

Of course, we have been through these things before. Stabilizing Iraq and Afghanistan will increase our security at home and certainly help win the war.

As we understand, the war was not just combat but to change things in that part of the world. The costs of fighting terrorists are significant, but they still are a relatively small percentage of the overall economy compared to that of previous conflicts. According to an analysis done by USA Today, the cost of fighting the war is 5 percent of the GDP compared to 30 percent for World War II and 15 percent for the Korean war. The \$87 billion request is less than 4 percent of our entire Federal budget next year. Yet it is a critical part of this stabilization area we are in.

Initial estimates of Iraq's total need range from \$50 billion to \$75 billion. The administration believes \$20 billion represents our reasonable share as to what we ought to be doing to put the country back in reasonable shape, and we expect the rest of the costs, of course, to be filled by the international community, or by Iraq's own reserves, which are potentially very large.

So these funds will be carefully targeted to the immediate security needs, as well as the share of the critical infrastructure that has to be replaced in order to get the kinds of support there that we are looking for.

Iraq oil reserves are estimated at approximately \$12 billion in 2004 and \$19 billion for each of 2005 and 2006. So unlike many of the countries in that part

of the world, there are sizable resources that we hope will be part of this rebuilding exercise, and indeed should be.

President Bush has held the line on nondefense spending growth. In 2001, the last budget before President Bush took office, nondefense spending grew nearly 15 percent. He cut that growth to 6 percent in 2000, less than 5 percent in 2003, and 2 percent in 2004. Obviously, there is always controversy and different views and things that we would like to do in our home States and in our country. But, of course, obviously, they have to be balanced with our ability to pay and our willingness to tax.

Today's deficits are larger than anybody wants. No one wants deficits, but they are certainly still less than 5 percent of the GDP and are manageable if we put them into a steady downward path by strong economic growth and spending restraints. These are the issues with which we have to deal.

Certainly, the war on terrorism has to be funded. Freeing Iraq is the key to winning the terrorism war and vital to America. President Bush has asked for \$87 billion in emergency funding—a large amount, of course. The majority—\$65 billion—will go to directly support troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, give them more resources that they need. Again, no one would argue against giving our troops what is necessary for them to go forward. And \$21 billion would go to create a secure environment. It is high, but as I mentioned, things have changed and we need to do the job right and continue to work at doing it.

From time to time we hear that there really wasn't a plan or there is not a plan. There is a plan and we are following it. One of the issues, of course, is time. I don't know how you could plan that anybody would have a definite timeframe in terms of a plan for a place such as Iraq. But I think Secretary Rumsfeld covered it well when he commented some time back, a few days ago. These are some of his comments that I think are correct. He said the coalition has certainly, in less than 5 months, racked up a series of achievements in both countries and civil reconstruction that may be without precedent. Today in Iraq virtually all major hospitals and universities have been reopened; hundreds of secondary schools—until a few months ago many were used for weapons storage—have been rebuilt and are ready for the start of the fall semester. This is part of the plan to put these entities, of course, back into place.

Fifty-six thousand Iraqis have been armed and trained in just a few months. They are contributing to the security and defense of the country. Today a new Iraqi army is being trained, and 40,000 Iraq police will join with that army to conduct joint controls with the coalition. Contrast that to the 14 months it took to establish a police force in postwar Germany and